

Harpswell Conservation Commission

Mission Statement The Conservation Commission for the Town of Harpswell was established in 1970 by vote at an annual town meeting. The basic authority to establish a Conservation Commission is given to the municipality through Maine Statute -Title 30-A MRSA, Section 3261. This section also spells out the Commission's statutory duties.

The Harpswell Conservation Commission has the responsibility of conducting research and giving advice that will help better utilize, protect, and plan for the Town's natural resources and open areas. The Conservation Commission seeks to coordinate its activities with existing Town committees, departments, and with other conservation bodies. As part of this mission it may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute materials (books, maps, pamphlets, etc) to help educate and involve the public.

Projects and Goals

1. Begin implementation of Harpswell's Open Space Plan adopted March, 2009
2. Advocate for the protection of Harpswell's water resources.
3. Develop a natural resource inventory for each of Harpswell's Focus Areas.
4. Provide conservation information and education to the community and the town administration.
5. Work with the Town Planner on ordinance provisions as appropriate.
6. Explore, prioritize and coordinate the selection of lands for easements or purchase
7. Research potential funding sources to support conservation activities in Harpswell.
8. Coordinate Commission's activities with other Town committees and organizations.
9. Seek community input on conservation issues.
10. Keep abreast of conservation issues that affect the Town and Region.
11. Establish yearly priorities and report these to the Selectmen.
12. Participate in public hearings and town meetings in coordination with the Selectmen.
13. Represent the Town in regional conservation activities.
14. Write a report for the *Annual Town Report*.

Accepted by the Conservation Commission July 20, 2004 Amended June 2, 2009

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen June 25, 2009